

# REPORT (PART II)

ON

## NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

### Week ending Saturday, 5th April 1902.

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REPORT (Part II)

NATIVE-OWNED ENTERPRISES IN BEHALF

Week ending 31st March 1968

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## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

462. With reference to the observation of the *Englishman* that the Native Press "had something more than an academic interest in the Boer war," the *Bengales* repeats that Indian public opinion has undergone no change whatever during its progress. While it has admired Boer patriotism and gallantry, it has bemoaned British reverses and felt elated at British victories. The *Bengales* rejoices at the peace proposals, and prays for the cessation of hostilities.

BENGALIAN,  
30th March 1902.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

463. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* publishes the report of its Monghyr correspondent that one night, within two hours, the houses of the local Deputy Magistrate and Additional Subordinate Judge were robbed; and that while the police were energetically searching for the thieves who broke into the house of the Deputy Magistrate, the same thieves were robbing the house of the Subordinate Judge. In both cases they escaped.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
27th March 1902.

The terrorism exercised by *ba'mashes* in these days keeps, says the journal, the peaceful population from seeking redress, and a further mischief is that Magistrates areas a rule beardless youths, and there is no danger in bringing a false complaint and no difficulty in obtaining summons from them. The Criminal Courts, instead of being institutions for protection, have been converted into those for oppression.

464. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is convinced that Sir John Woodburn's speech in the Supreme Legislative Council on Police reform comes from a very sincere and sympathetic heart. It agrees with His Honour that this is the "first and commanding requirement," but disagrees *in toto* with the remedial measures His Honour suggests. Honesty and efficiency cannot, in the opinion of the *Patrika*, be obtained with increased salary. The police are what their masters have made them. They are the "watch-dogs" of the Government. If the District Magistrates wish it, they can improve the police in a week. Ask the police what they think to be their chief function. They will tell you with one voice—"To keep our superiors in good humour." A Police officer is safe so long as he can do this. If he cannot do it, his efficiency and honesty will help him very little. And what is the best way of keeping the superiors in good humour? It is to act not the part of a rational being, but that of a dog: an absolute submission not only to the wishes, but also to the whims and caprices of his master, is what is now-a-days required of the Police officer.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
2nd April 1902.

## (b)—Working of the Courts.

465. *Power and Guardian* complains that respectable people avoid the responsibility of sitting as jurors or assessors, owing to the ill-treatment they receive at the hands of many Judges. It proceeds to narrate that Babu Moni Lal Roy, son of Major Chakan Lal Roy of Chakdigi, in Burdwan, while recruiting his health at Waltair, was summoned as a juror. The summons was stuck up in his house at Chakdigi, and when the Babu failed to appear in Court he was fined Rs. 30. The Judge refusing to remit the fine on the ground that the Babu should have notified his change of address, the matter has been taken to the High Court, which has issued a rule upon the Sessions Judge to show cause why the order should not be set aside.

POWER AND GUAR-  
DIAN,  
23rd March 1902.

466. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* reverts to this case, which it describes as a gross failure of justice, and remarks that it behoves the Government to take serious notice of the affair in the interests of the public.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
27th March 1902.

It asks the Agent of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway to intervene and bring about an amicable settlement, if possible.



BENGALKE,  
27th March 1902.

467. The *Bengalee* publishes Mr. Marr's judgment on the case, remarking as follows:—

The Kharagpur case.

The Magistrate's knowledge of the law leaves much room for improvement, for even on his own showing Mr. Bayley was guilty of abetting an assault committed on the complainant, or of an offence under section 352, I. P. C., taken with section 109. Does the Magistrate know that shaking a fist at a man without striking him is an assault under the Indian Penal Code? [*vide* Illustration (a), section 352]. The judgment is an error in law, and we trust those responsible for the judicial administration of the district will take the necessary steps to reverse the order of the Joint-Magistrate, which amounts to a denial of justice to the aggrieved party.

POWER AND GUARDIAN,  
30th March 1902.

468. In the course of its remarks, condemnatory of Mr. Marr's action in this case, *Power and Guardian* invites the attention of the Lieutenant-Governor to the case,

*Ibid.*

and hopes that His Honour will take prompt and adequate notice of it. There is no appeal against the acquittal, and the injured Brahmin has no other remedy if the Local Government will not take cognizance of the case.

INDIAN EMPIRE,  
1st April 1902.

469. The *Indian Empire* says that the way in which Mr. Marr has dealt with this case has convulsed the whole country.

*Ibid.*

In its opinion the only course now open to the authorities is to get this judgment quashed by the High Court under section 417 of the Criminal Procedure Code and have the case tried properly. This is the only legal remedy open; and as the complainant has no power under the law to adopt this course, will the Government of Sir John Woodburn, for the sake of its fair name and fame, order his law officers to appeal to the High Court against Mr. Marr's decision? The whole country will then be thankful to His Honour, and an act of justice will be done to a poor Mahratta Brahmin, who, according to the statement of even Mr. Bayley, was at least grossly insulted. The impression in the country now is that the upshot of this Kharagpur case furnishes another proof, if any more proof were necessary, that in a case between a European and an Indian, justice is always denied to the latter.

BENGALKE,  
1st April 1902.

470. Reverting to this case, the *Bengalee* points out that Mr. Bayley has been acquitted on his own statement, although it contained a clear confession of guilt. The

*Ibid.*

fact that he had served mostly in the Central Provinces, and that the clerk was a native of those Provinces, appears to have been accepted as a justification of the offence. The definition of assault as given in section 351, read with sections 349 and 350 of the Indian Penal Code, is so clear that Mr. Marr had no alternative but to convict him, and it is difficult to understand how the Joint-Magistrate could overlook the circumstances present in the case. No provocation was offered sufficient to justify what Mr. Bayley committed.

In conclusion, the journal blames the complainant for not resenting the insult immediately instead of airing his grievances in Court, and on this account considers that Mr. Marr acted rightly in acquitting Mr. Bayley.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
31st March 1902.

471. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* learns that, without any fresh enquiry, the Magistrate, to whom the Sessions Judge sent

The Chiribundar case, Dinajpur.

back the case in which the Sub-Inspector of Chiribundar was accused of committing rape, for enquiry under Chapter XVIII of the Criminal Procedure Code, has found the case malicious and discharged the Sub-Inspector.

The *Patrika* says:—

Two assessors and the Sessions Judge, Mr. Fischer, found the case of the woman Nendi to be true. Deputy Magistrate, Babu Atul Chandra, and District Magistrate, Mr. Garrett, however, found it to be maliciously false. And they all drew their conclusions from the same evidence before them! Is not this a queer state of things? On one supposition it can be explained, viz., it is not so much on law and evidence as on the temper of the judicial officers that the fate of a case often hangs.

But, continues the journal, as it is hardly likely to be true that the Magistrate held no fresh enquiry, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* urges the



institution of an impartial and sifting one, and hopes the Lieutenant-Governor, who is very keen about cases in which the honour of women and the police is involved, will send for the records of the case.

472. The *Bengalee*, learning that Mr. Geidt, Additional Judge of the 24-Parganas and Howrah, is to succeed Mr. Justice Rampini in the Calcutta High Court, wishes to know why the claims of Mr. B. L. Gupta, who has twice officiated as a Judge of the High Court, are being overlooked.

BENGALIAN,  
4th April 1902.

The supersession of Mr. B. L. Gupta.

It hopes that "ere long the wrong will be righted, and that the Indian public will be relieved of the painful impression which has been created, viz., that Mr. Gupta is deprived of the just reward of his faithful service owing to the inextinguishable crime of colour."

(d)—Education.

473. *Power and Guardian* agrees with Miss Saraladevi Ghosal, B.A., Principal of the Mysore Maharani's College, that the education imparted to native females is doing

POWER AND GUARDIAN,  
23rd March 1902.

Female education.

incalculable harm to society, and recommends the scheme of that lady to establish a seminary where Indian girls could be educated in the manner desired. For this project, however, a sum of four lakhs of rupees is needed, and the Hindu community is urged to come forward and assist.

474. What is most striking in the evidence of the various Principals and Professors of Colleges, writes the *Behar News*,

BEHAR NEWS,  
29th March 1902.

The Education Commission.

is the diversity of opinions expressed as to the causes of the failure of the present system of education. In the opinion of this paper, however, cram, which is a direct result of the present system, is solely responsible. Indian students have not only to master many branches of study in a short time, but they have to do it through the medium of a foreign tongue. This is the radical defect of the system, and it can only be removed "by letting Indians learn English from their cradles or by allowing them to be taught in their own vernaculars."

475. The *Bengalee* points to the address of Dewan Bahadur Srinivasa Raghava Iyengar, C.I.E., at the last Convocation of the Madras University, as successfully disposing

BENGALIAN,  
29th March 1902.

High education.

of the opinion that it is desirable to diminish the number of educated Indians whose education is utilized only in creating ill-feeling against Government.

The Dewan Bahadur holds that the larger the number of educated Indians, the better for the country; for, it is the educated Indians who are the most important factors in the regeneration of their less fortunate fellow-countrymen. If there has been any progress in any direction during the past half century, it has been due to the energy and devotion of the enlightened sons of India. It is from the latter that all knowledge, all civilization will, in the fulness of time, be transmitted to the masses. The writer does not mean to say that every educated Indian works for the regeneration of his nation. What he says is that every reform movement that has been launched forth during the past half century owes its origin to that national awakening which has been caused by the inroad of Western education and civilization. The effect of high education is, therefore, not to be judged by the pressure upon Government service, but by other indications which are at least equally significant.

476. The *Indian Nation* deduces from the evidence tendered before the Indian Universities Commission that Entrance students are deficient in English. It is useless,

INDIAN NATION,  
31st March 1902.

The Indian Universities Commission.

writes the *Nation*, to say that these particular students must evince a good knowledge of English when a pernicious system of school education is tolerated. If Mr. Pedler's new course of education is introduced, the deficiency will obviously be aggravated, since students will have to learn in four years the English they now learn in nine, to say nothing of the early energies expended on Vernaculars.

Take away the load of scientific books prescribed for the Entrance, and then only can students perform what is expected of them.



INDIAN NATION,  
31st March 1902.

477. The *Indian Nation* writes :—

Sir W. Lee-Warner's *magnus opus*.

"We consider the mischief of the book to lie not in its dogmatic optimism, but in its furnishing an occasion to intelligent and well-informed teachers of keeping up a running commentary on its lessons. Not a page or a paragraph will be taught without something of a comment qualifying or limiting the propositions of the writer, so far as they express opinions, till they almost appear as wholly unfounded. The book will thus defeat its own object. Young men are not made Christians by the teaching of the Bible, and their existing loyalty will be exposed to great risks by the attempt that is made, in Sir W. Lee-Warner's political gospel, to prove too much. Another unpleasant fact about the introduction of the book into Indian schools is the part taken by Government in the matter. It was not consistent with the dignity of the Government to move in a way which would be fitting only in the publishers."

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
3rd April 1902.

478. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says that the effect of raising the pass

Raising of pass marks for the Entrance examination.

marks in English for the Entrance examination, which is under consideration, will be to mar the future prospects of a large number of "our young hopefuls," and, as neither Government nor private employers employ men who have not passed the Entrance examination, even for appointments worth Rs. 15 or Rs. 20 a month, deprive them of the means of eking out a hand-to-mouth existence.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

INDIAN MIRROR,  
28th March 1902.

479. The *Indian Mirror*, referring to the projected improvement of

The improvement of Calcutta.

Calcutta to be attained by opening out new roads fifteen and-a-half miles long, wishes to know how the money for so ambitious a scheme is to be found. It hopes that no further burdens on the rate-payers will be imposed, and that the Government of India, "which is perennially fond of talking big, will be made to discharge its just obligations."

BENGALIAN,  
28th March 1902.

480. The *Bengalee* hopes that the already over-burdened rate-payer will

*Ibid.*

not be further taxed for the purpose of financing the colossal scheme for opening out the congested parts of Calcutta, when, by imposing a duty on jute and opium, a ready solution of the problem of is found of obtaining a revenue sufficient to cover interest on a loan of a couple of crores of rupees. Lastly, there remains the obligation of the Government, both Imperial and Provincial, to bear the lion's share of the cost. Calcutta is entitled to expect chivalrous treatment at the hands of a Government which was first formed within her confines and the mandates of which have been issued for two centuries from her Fort.

BENGALIAN,  
29th March 1902.

481. Reverting to this subject, the *Bengalee* can see no possible

*Ibid.*

objection to the imposition of a small tax on jute, but it has a shrewd suspicion that the Government of India want to impose this tax and appropriate the proceeds thereof for its own use.

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
31st March 1902.

482. The following paragraph is taken from the *Hindoo Patriot* :—

Municipal reassessment.

The question of revision of assessments in the northern portion of the town is largely exercising the minds of the rate-payers. We have already had occasion to bring to the notice of the authorities the grave injustice of the new assessments in many instances. The meeting of influential rate payers, held in Shambazar under the presidency of Kumar Monmotho Nath Mitter, Rai Bahadur, showed unmistakably the trend of public opinion in this matter. The Corporation would do well in all matters affecting the people, to carry the people with them as far as possible. Otherwise even measures of public good do not bear the desired fruit. We have had letters appearing in all the public prints pointing out the hardship and injustice of the assessments generally. More specific instances should be brought to notice, and we feel sure that a sympathetic and right-minded Chairman, such as we have in Mr. Greer, will, so far as he is able to do it, redress the grievances of rate-payers.



483. The District Magistrate of Faridpur, writes the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, has been accused of converting local self-government into a farce. If this is so, continues the *Patrika*, he is only carrying out the policy of Government. With a view to give effect to the promises of the late Duke of Argyll and Sir George Campbell that, "as far as possible, the assent and convenience of the cess-payers should be secured both in the levy and the management of the rates," the Secretary of State suggested that representatives of the cess-payers should form themselves into Committees and take charge of the proceeds. This led to the formation of the old Cess Committees which have been supplanted by District Boards, where the Government are supreme.

The new Zamindars' Association should take up this important subject with vigour, for it affects every man who owns a cottah of land in Bengal. The representative of the zamindars in the Legislative Council should also bring the matter home to the head of the Government and try to convince His Honour of the gross wrong inflicted upon the people of Bengal by the misappropriation of the cess fund.

484. The *Indian Mirror* writes:—

A continuous water-supply for Calcutta.

The proposal of the Corporation to give a continuous water-supply to Calcutta will raise lively expectations. It were safe not to build too much on the allurements held out by Mr. Greer, and the Commissioners have done well and wisely not to commit themselves, at the first invitation, to the scheme of Messrs. Silk and Buckley.

(g)—*Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.*

485. With reference to the proposal to apply the provision of the Public Demands Recovery Act to assist landholders to recover from their co-sharers and tenants the

Bengal drainage.

sums they have paid or are paying to Government for drainage works, the *Hindoo Patriot* voices the complaint of the tenants affected by the Barraajulla-Rajapur drainage scheme in the Hooghly district, that in large areas the drainage channels serve to inundate the lands and submerge the crops, and yet the cultivators have to pay excessive taxes in the shape of increased rents or heavy instalments.

While approving of the intention of the Government to relieve landholders in recovering sums apportioned to them, the *Patriot* points out that this system of apportionment, field by field, is capable of great improvement. If the apportionment be properly made with strict reference to increased power of land, neither the landlords nor the tenants would have anything to complain of. Lands not benefited could be made free from liability, while the sums actually paid by the zamindars could be recovered from the lands benefited. Both landlords and their tenants require relief, and it is hoped that the Bill introduced will secure this relief.

(h)—*General.*

486. *Power and Guardian* relates that lately at Trichinopoly two soldiers stopped a cart containing a man, his wife and sister-in-law, drove off the man and dishonoured the women. Difficulty of identifying the offenders out of several hundred similarly dressed soldiers, has resulted in no arrests being made, but *Power and Guardian* suggests that it might be ascertained who among the soldiers in garrison happened to be out that night at that particular hour, or who had been seen going the way indicated. A sifting enquiry is demanded in the case.

487. The *Indian Mirror* records a "respectful but firm protest against the way in which the Viceroy has recently exercised his patronage," and reminds His Excellency that his example is being followed with alacrity by the subordinate Governments, as in the case of Mr. Woodroffe's recent appointment to the Standing Counselship, to which it has already referred. It has yet, it says, to discover "the wisdom or propriety" of Mr. Fuller's appointment to the

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
2nd April 1902.

INDIAN MIRROR,  
4th April 1902.

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
27th March 1902.

POWER AND GUAR-  
DIAN,  
23rd March 1902.

INDIAN MIRROR,  
27th March 1902.



Chief Commissionership of Assam and of Mr. Hardy's translation to the office of the Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Revenue and Agriculture. It insinuates that these appointments are the result of Bengal Civilian being under a cloud, and asserts that Mr. Fuller was appointed in order to undo the policy of Mr. Cotton, while as for Mr. Hardy, his promotion has caused still greater surprise.

AMRITA BASAR  
PATRIKA,  
29th March 1902.

488. The *Amrita Basar Patrika* exhorts the Maharani of Dumraon to lose no time in selecting an heir to succeed her, and thus prevent the extinction of the Dumraon house.

BENGALER,  
29th March 1902.

489. The following is taken from the *Bengalee*:—

Deprivation of holidays. We understand that the office of the Inspector-General of Jails, Bengal, remained opened yesterday, in spite of the Government order to the contrary. Throughout Christendom the people have been enjoying rest, and a Christian Government has ordered cessation from work in all the public offices in the country during the Easter holidays, but the irresponsible autocrat of the Jail office, whoever he may be, has ordered the office clerks to be in attendance, and to drudge on a day when the inmates of the jails, which this office administers, were enjoying rest. We desire to draw the attention of the authorities and trust a suitable notice will be taken of this transgression of Government order.

BENGALER,  
29th March 1902.

490. Reflecting on the approaching Coronation Durbar to be held at Delhi, the *Bengalee* describes a little cloud no bigger than a man's hand which may assume vast and dangerous proportions and which may seriously interfere with the success of the event, viz., Plague. The disease has broken out in the Punjab, and who can tell but that some of those who have already swarmed into Delhi may have come from the adjoining plague-infected districts?

The journal would have no restrictions imposed, as they would entail endless oppression, yet it recognizes the serious nature of the danger fore-shadowed.

It concludes its observations with a plea for Calcutta being made the scene of the festive celebration connected with the Coronation, and in the course of its remarks, says:—

The practical considerations, apart from the menaces of the plague, point to the same conclusion. The tradesmen and the owners of houses in Calcutta have to bear a heavy burden in the shape of municipal taxes, which are more onerous than those of any other town in the Empire. If the Durbar were held in Calcutta they would make some profit. They are entitled to make such profit by reason of the Imperial burdens which they have to bear. The burdens are theirs from year's end to year's end. It is only fair that the profits from Imperial ceremonies should also be theirs. They are, however, deprived of the profits which are reserved for the people of Delhi. This is not in accordance with the Imperial instinct of justice for which the Viceroy is justly noted.

BENGALER,  
30th March 1902.

491. In this connection the *Bengalee* writes:—

Forced labour in the Punjab. "Forced labour is a thing which is discreditable to any civilized Government. It is no excuse that it has prevailed in India for centuries before. *Sutti* and infanticide had prevailed here for centuries, but the Government made short work of it. Forced labour should be a thing of the past. It is inconsistent with the traditions of the British Government. It is the relic of a barbarous system, and for the British Government to take it up and to recognise it is to depart from its best traditions and to descend to the level of an Asiatic autocracy."

POWER AND GUAR-  
DIAN,  
30th March 1902.

492. *Power and Guardian*, noticing the case, reported in the last issue of the Newspaper Abstract, in which the Sub-Registrar of Midnapore charged an additional fee of 4 annas on every deed brought before him for registration, as a means of raising funds for the Victoria Memorial Hall, wishes to know what steps the District Registrar has taken to compensate the people, who have thus been robbed by the Sub-Registrar. The paper cannot believe that the Sub-Registrar did not know what he was about or did not see that it was a felonious act he was committing. He is not illiterate; he is expected to



know the laws of the land; he is a responsible gazetted officer, and not an irresponsible menial servant. Consequently he deserves to be taken seriously to task. Again, if it be argued that he did not realize the grave nature of the offence he was unwittingly committing, he can no longer be allowed to lower the service in public estimation by continuing in office.

493. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* remarks that Mr. Digby by his publications on Indian economic questions has proved that he is no insignificant critic whose indictments deserve no attention. The Secretary of State, who in the beginning treated him with scant courtesy, is now, says the *Patrika*, mortally afraid of him. But Mr. Digby, not being a millionaire and having spent large sums of money from his own pocket for his labours on behalf of this country, it is the "sacred duty of every Indian who can afford it to purchase a copy of his book "Prosperous India"; price Rs.7-8, postage."

494. Referring again to the hardship to which clerks in the Commissioner's office, Jalpaiguri, are subjected by being ordered to accompany the Commissioner to Darjeeling without any allowance, the *Bengalee* appeals to the Lieutenant-Governor and the Viceroy to enquire into the matter and set it right at once.

495. The *Bengalee* finds that the general increase in the pay of the British soldier, as proposed by the British Cabinet, will result in India being saddled from 1904 with a permanent burden of one crore and 18 lakhs of rupees on account of the British garrison in the country.

Good grounds of complaint exist against this impost, and since no benefit will be derived by poor India, it is hoped that the number of British red coats kept in this country will be fewer, so that there may be no additional cost imposed upon an overtaxed people.

496. The *Bengalee* invites the Government to look into the piece of jobbery by which a Eurasian has, through a letter of recommendation from a high European official, been appointed in the office of fairly the Collector of Calcutta, in supersession of the claims of men who are entitled to promotion.

In its issue of the 4th instant, it learns on good authority that no such appointment has been made!

497. In commenting upon the Budget debate, and noticing in particular Mr. Gokhale's speech, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* remarks that for the first time in the annals of British rule in India, a native of India has not only succeeded in exposing the fallacies which underlie these Government statements, but has ventured to do it in an uncompromising manner.

498. The *Hindoo Patriot* in its criticism of this subject begins appreciatively by expressing gratitude to the Viceroy for remitting the arrears of land revenue and relieving in this form the neediest among the needy in those parts of the country which have been so grievously smitten by famine. Yet it complains that the pressure of taxation on the poor man has not been taken away. The salt tax remains, although in no way justified by State necessity. When the finances are in such a flourishing condition, why, it asks, could not the Finance Minister give up 89 lakhs, the result of reducing this tax by four annas per maund, for relieving the poor for whom he evinces such deep sympathy?

499. The *Indian Mirror* is struck by three speeches delivered at the Budget debate, viz., those of the Hon'ble Messrs. Gokhale, Smeaton, and lastly, though not leastly, of the Viceroy himself. It characterises Mr. Gokhale's speech as courageous and fully supporting that gentleman's reputation as a fine speaker, who has the gift of speaking direct and to the purpose as a logician and a financial expert. Mr. Smeaton's is found full of moral purpose, lofty courage, and straight demonstration of the thoughts working in the speaker's mind. It was in fact worthy of Mr. Smeaton's great reputation as one of the most conscientious and sympathetic officials whom England has deputed to take part in the government of this continent.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
31st March 1902.

BENGALIEE,  
2nd April 1902.

BENGALIEE,  
2nd April 1902.

BENGALIEE,  
2nd April 1902.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
28th March 1902.

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
28th March 1902.

INDIAN MIRROR,  
29th March 1902.



Noticing, in particular, the Viceroy's reflections on the subject of the utility of Commissions and Committees of enquiry, the *Mirror* is surprised that it did not occur to so ardent a debater and so close a critic of his critics that the course of the Commissions and their 'process from the cradle to the grave' are calculated to bury all results in the grave itself. The journal sees no good in delaying for the purpose of obtaining the opinion of Local Governments. Their policy is invariably subordinated to the policy of the Imperial Government, and officials are mostly of one mind and constantly and consistently vote *ditto* to one another.

BENGALUR,  
29th March 1902.

500. The *Bengalee* writes in the glowing terms of the speech of the Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale, which, it says, contained statements which admit of no refutation and will remain unanswered for a long time; also that it bristled with home thrusts, such as even Lord Curzon "prudently refrained" from parrying. By his single speech Mr. Gokhale has made his mark as a debater of the foremost rank, and is regarded as a new luminary in the political atmosphere.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
29th March 1902.

501. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* contends that the Viceroy remained in the background during the Budget debate and left the fighting to be done by Mr. Ibbetson, whom it calls DonQuixote, aided by Mr. Bilgrami, described as his Sancho Panza.

The following quotations are taken from the article:—

"We shall show some of his methods of fight. To the question of Mr. Gokhale whether railways or irrigation should have had the first claim, the Hon'ble Member replies:—

- (1) This is not the occasion to discuss the question.
- (2) The Government did right in giving preference to railways in the beginning.
- (3) I heartily agree with Mr. Charlu that so far irrigation has not received the attention which it merits.

"So here he yielded practically for what he was supposed to be fighting.

"Though Mr. Ibbetson fought on the wrong side, we must confess his heart is sound. As an official he had no help but to fight against us, but his utterances show that his sympathy is with the people, for he indirectly admitted (no official dares do it directly) all that is contended on their behalf. He says:—

- (1) In the great cities there is poverty amounting to destitution.
- (2) In the villages and small towns the labouring classes are poor enough in all conscience.
- (3) The margin between their needs and incomes is small, and when prices rise the pinch of hunger is widely and severely felt.
- (4) The people manage to exist for two reasons: one is their needs are small, and the other is there is universal charity in India.
- (5) Mr. Ibbetson accepts the contention of Babu Sri Ram that it is a famine of money and not of grain that India suffers from.

"In the above, all our contentions have been admitted, and thus it is explained why Lord Curzon did not choose to take any principal part in the fight."

INDIAN MIRROR,  
1st April 1902.

502. The *Indian Mirror* devotes a leader to criticising Mr. Smeaton's speech, which, it says, does credit to his head and heart.

The Hon'ble Mr. Smeaton's speech on the Budget. His observations on the hardships of the poorer classes who pay the income-tax entitle him to the thanks of the people. His remarks on the incidence of the salt-tax were more outspoken, while he exposed the jugglery of successive Finance Ministers. Those who were present to hear the debate are agreed, says the journal, that his examination of the recent Resolution of the Government on the Land Revenue system left a visible impression on the Viceroy.

BENGALUR,  
1st April 1902.

503. The *Bengalee* conveys the thanks of the community to the Hon'ble Mr. Turner and the Hon'ble Mr. Smeaton for their strong advocacy in favour of raising the minimum of taxable income. The consensus of official and non-official opinion on this



subject should be regarded as absolutely decisive in determining the action of the Government.

The reduction in the salt duty would also be welcomed by the poor, and, in view of our huge surpluses, its remission cannot be much longer delayed.

These surpluses should also be utilised for the separation of the judicial and executive functions, a much needed reform hitherto objected to on the score of want of funds.

Police reform would be a half-hearted and halting measure, if the subordinate judiciary were not placed in a position of independence—free from the restraint of executive authority.

The journal appeals to Lord Curzon to solve this great problem.

504. Commenting on the Home Member's speech on the Budget, the

BENGALIE,  
2nd April 1902.

The Debate on the Budget.

*Bengalee* finds that Mr. Ibbetson's testimony in favour of the official view of India's growing material prosperity under the British rule is singularly weak and indefensible, since he acknowledges that poverty amounting to destitution exists in towns and villages.

The indigenous trade and commerce of the country has been throttled under a policy of selfishness, and owing to financial pressure there is less joy, happiness and comfort in almost every home in middle class life in Bengal. This likewise applies to the humblest tiller of the soil.

Mr. Digby's book may be ignored by Lord George Hamilton, but he is the spokesman of a school of economist who will one day be masters of the future.

"Let the economist argue as to the causes. The fact is undisputable that to-day we are less happy, less comfortable, more under the ceaseless pressure of a burden which torments every moment of our lives, than we were fifty years ago. Of an earlier period we cannot speak with any personal knowledge or the assured confidence of personal experience."

505. While preferring to defer criticism of the general policy of the

BENGALIE,  
4th April 1902.

The Viceroy on the Budget.

British Indian Empire under Lord Curzon till his administration has come to a close, the *Bengalee* nevertheless remarks that, if called upon to apply the test at the present stage of His Excellency's administration, its verdict would be an adverse one.

"No solid achievement of a permanent and durable character, except, perhaps, the new frontier policy has as yet marked the administration of Lord Curzon. So far it has been an administration of committees and commissions, of promises which have not yet been fulfilled, and the fulfilment of which will take a longer time than what is covered within the span of Viceregal tenure." But in fairness to His Excellency, the journal is compelled to wait till the close of Lord Curzon's tenure of office before delivering its final judgment.

But no such consideration stands in the way of its dealing with the budget or the financial policy which it discloses. In this respect, it finds fault with His Excellency's manner of defending the action of the Government in not reducing the salt-tax, and is constrained to say that His Excellency handled the critics of Government, whom he characterized as without any sense of responsibility, with the roughness which he used to show towards his opponents in the House of Commons.

As regards the responsibility of the Government, the *Bengalee* remarks:—

"The truth is that the Government of India in this, as in all other matters, is irresponsible. To whom is the Government of India responsible? It owes no responsibility to the people of India. Its responsibility to the Secretary of State is nominal; and the Secretary of State is practically responsible to no one. He is responsible to Parliament; but Parliament feels no interest in Indian affairs. The Secretary of State is thus left to himself—the undisputed lord of all that he surveys. If ever people spoke with a sense of responsibility to their constituents and their fellow-countrymen, if ever popular representatives voiced a general and widespread aspiration—it was the Members of the Legislative Council when they appealed to the Government for a reduction of the salt-tax. And if their appeal was not listened to, it was because public opinion in this country is impotent and the Government of India is responsible to none."



BENGALÉE,  
3rd April 1902.

506. The *Bengalée* holds that one of the obvious obstacles to administrative success in this country lies in the inaccessibility of the European official. If this were not so, the District Officer would obtain a deeper insight at first hand into the wants and wishes of the people, who would have fewer grievances, and thus would British rule become more popular.

INDIAN MIRROR,  
3rd April 1902.

507. However much one may blame the Secretary of State for India for his sins of "omission and commission" writes the *Indian Mirror*, it should be remembered that despite his autocratic position, he is not, after all, the lord of all he surveys, and illustrates this by referring to the attitude he was forced to adopt by the India Office in regard to the Indian Famine Union.

Had Lord George Hamilton any originality or knowledge of Indian affairs, he would have resolutely refused to have been made a fool of, but as it is he has to suffer for the sins of the office of which he is nothing more than a figure-head.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
3rd April 1902.

508. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* has no doubt that the Government of Lord Curzon is sincere in its desire to introduce agricultural reform, but judging from the manner the subject has progressed, it says it will take some years more to build a gigantic hall, &c. Eventually, it fears that this agricultural business will find berths for some Europeans and Eurasians, but it urges the necessity of appointing for the whole of India 500 Deputy Inspectors on a salary of Rs. 200 each with travelling allowances, who must be Indians.

### III.—LEGISLATION.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
27th March 1902.

509. When criticising the Budget, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* hopes that the non-official Members of Council will take up the subject of the Road Cess Act. When it was imposed the principle was laid down that the funds raised would be placed absolutely at the disposal of the cess-payers. The control, however, passed into the hands of District Boards, which are to all intents and purposes official bodies, and is now appropriated by the Government entirely.

### IV.—NATIVE STATES.

POWER AND GUAR-  
DIAN,  
23rd March 1902.

510. *Power and Guardian* notices at length a pamphlet by Mr. E. A. Good, Private Detective, entitled "The Khairpur Scandal, or An Autocratic Vazir and his maladministration." "The details which form the contents of the pamphlet—of the sickening, harrowing tale of misrule which its pages unfold—of the transfers, dismissals, and appointments that are going on from morning till evening—of the squandering of the revenues of the State for the personal comfort of the Vazir, his family and his relations, for the education of his son in India and in England, for the maintenance of mistresses by himself and his favourites—of the active inactivity of the principal executive and judicial officer in the realm—of the pitchforking of illiterate favourites into high and responsible offices on high salaries—of the creation of sinecure appointments for the special behoof of unworthy and incapable satellites—we say the blood boils in our veins, and we lose all the healthy and salutary effect of self-control. We have no hesitation in saying that a more painful record of misgovernment, of inefficiency and encroachment on popular rights, and of wilful neglect and deliberate misappropriation, as is unfolded by Mr. Good, we have never come across; and that, even if a hundredth part of what the writer relates be true, he has demonstrated the urgent necessity of the interference of both the Bombay and Supreme Governments."

BENGALÉE,  
27th March 1902.

511. The *Bengalée*, referring to the complaint of one of its correspondents, that the Viceroy has ordered the general election of the Raja of Cherrapunji against customary usages, finds itself unable to support its informant. On the contrary, it sees in the action of the Government a great solicitude for the maintenance of established custom.



## V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

512. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* remarks that the Government of the

Plague in Allahabad.

United Provinces of Agra and Oudh have at last thought it proper to furnish the outside world with an account of the plague in the town of Allahabad. The report published in the local official *Gazette* might, it says, have thrown considerable light on the characteristics of the Allahabad plague, whether it was contagious and whether there were any specific causes that led to its outbreak. It seems, however, the appearance of the disease so dazed everybody in Allahabad—the official and the non-official, the European and the Indian—that either they ran away to other places or shut themselves up in the Cantonment, and thus there was none to utilize the occasion for the purpose of adding to the stock of knowledge on the subject of plague.

513. The *Indian Mirror* writes:—"It is strange that the exodus from

Plague in Calcutta.

Calcutta owing to plague is exciting no attention or comment. The Marwaris do not flock at the terminal railway stations as before, but they steal out of the city in hundreds daily. We hear that Chandernagore is crowded with unwelcome guests from Calcutta."

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
1st April 1902.

INDIAN MIRROR,  
3rd April 1902.

## VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

514. The following is taken from the *Indian Mirror* :—

We have no serious criticism to offer against the new site on the  
The site for the Victoria Memorial Hall. maidan, selected for the Victoria Memorial Hall, except this, that it is a serious encroachment on the maidan. The "Park," as it has been called, is the chief lung of Calcutta, and has, therefore, to be kept free of dirt and dust. No blocking of the maidan should be permitted. It is surprising that the military authorities should have permitted an encroachment like this even at the behest of a Viceroy. Of course, the occasion is unprecedented. But, we fear, that one precedent will create another. As it is, when the Memorial buildings are erected, people who now air themselves of an afternoon along the pretty drive on the Red Road, will have to take themselves elsewhere—where we cannot tell. Talking of precedents, the Port Commissioners engaged to keep the Strand Road clear of obstructions to light and air. The pledge was not kept. Wharves and godowns have been built in their hundreds, and the Strand Road is fast becoming a veritable plague-spot.

INDIAN MIRROR,  
1st April 1902.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL  
OF POLICE, L. P.,  
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,  
The 5th April 1902.

H. B. ST. LEGER,  
Asst. to the Insp.-General of Police, L. P.



